THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The total stock of rice available in the Central Pool, as on 1.11.2003 is 109 lakh tonnes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Prices of foodgrains

990. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of foodgrains are high under the PDS and poor are not in a position to afford;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to high prices of PDS ration, stocks are overflowing in Government godowns; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the foodgrains are made available to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya families at highly subsidized rates of about 45% and 78% of the economic cost of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) respectively.

(b) and (c) The off-take of foodgrains under BPL and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) has been progressively increasing. The total stocks as on 1st April, 2003 were of the order of 328.02 lakh tonnes comprising of 171.57 lakh tonnes of rice and 156.45 lakh tonnes of wheat.

Inspecting and checking up foodgrains before lifting

991. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: